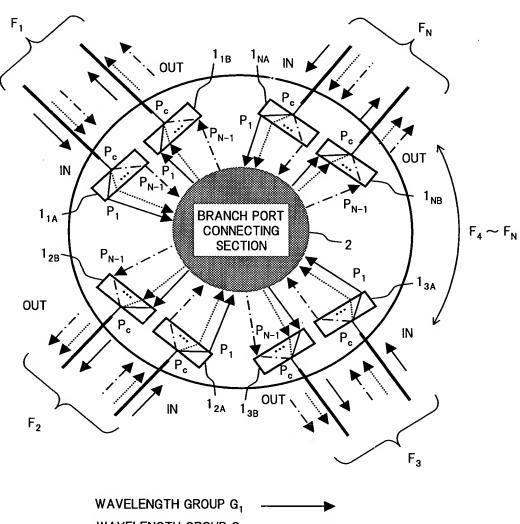
FIG.1

CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-DIRECTIONAL OPTICAL BRANCHING APPARATUS ACCORDING TO PRESENT INVENTION



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FIG.2

CONFIGURATION OF THREE-DIRECTIONAL OPTICAL BRANCHING APPARATUS ACCORDING TO FIRST EMBODIMENT OF PRESENT INVENTION

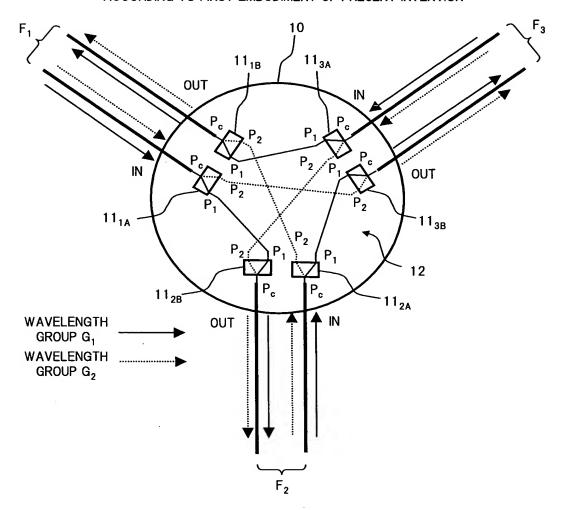


FIG.3

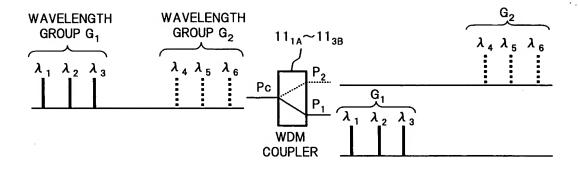


FIG.4

LIGHT PASSING CHARACTERISTIC OF WDM COUPLER

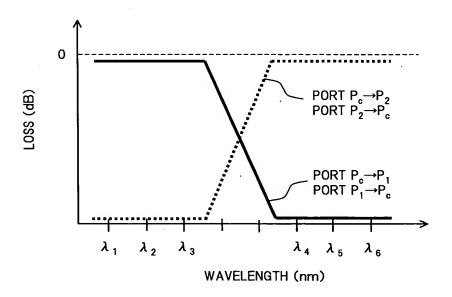


FIG.5

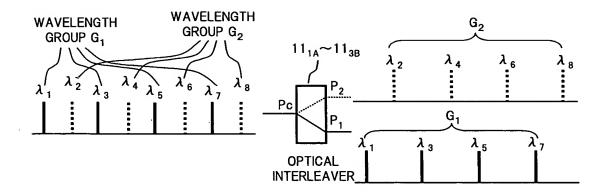


FIG.6



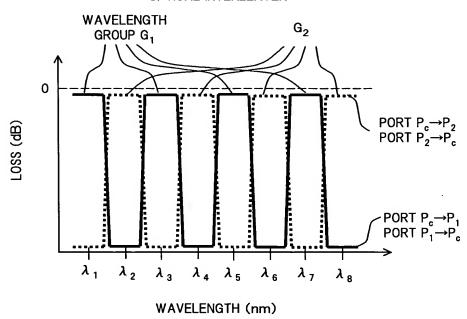


FIG.7

CONFIGURATION OF FOUR-DIRECTIONAL OPTICAL BRANCHING APPARATUS ACCORDING TO SECOND EMBODIMENT OF PRESENT INVENTION

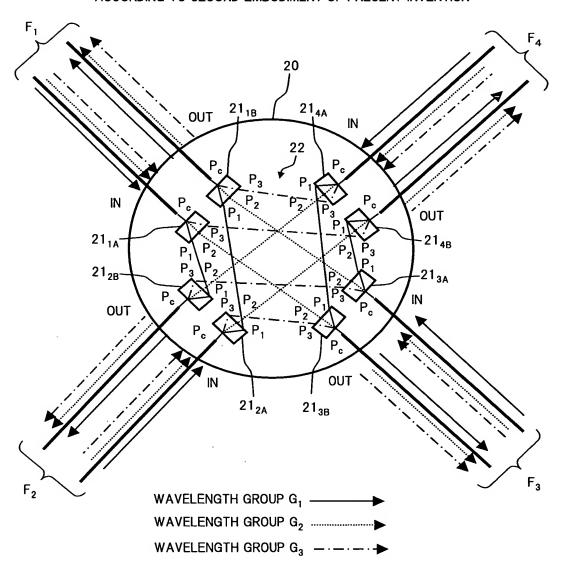


FIG.8

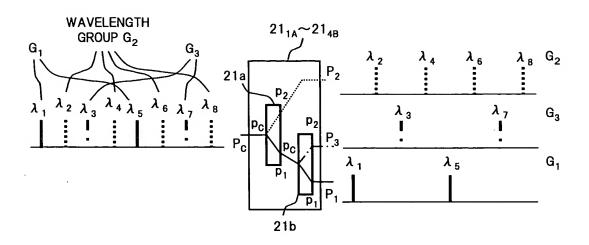
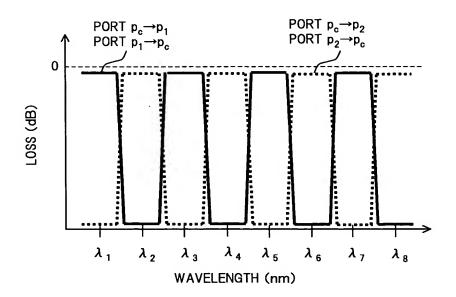


FIG.9

LIGHT PASSING CHARACTERISTIC OF OPTICAL INTERLEAVER 21a



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LIGHT PASSING CHARACTERISTIC OF OPTICAL INTERLEAVER 21b

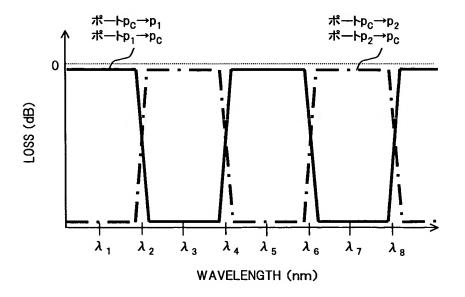
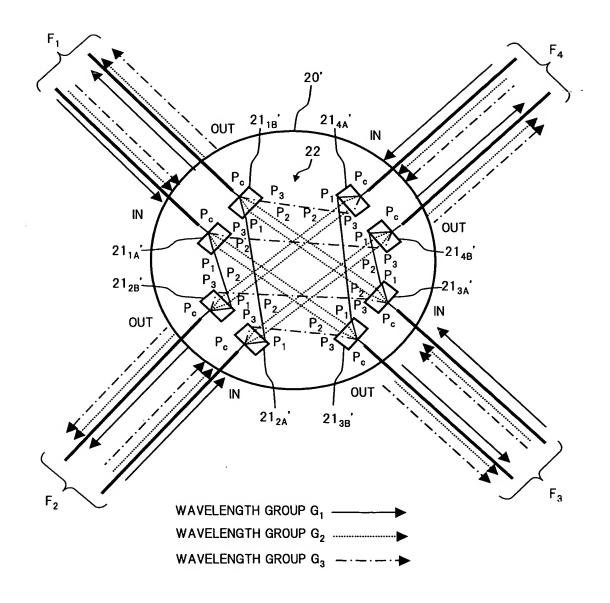


FIG.11



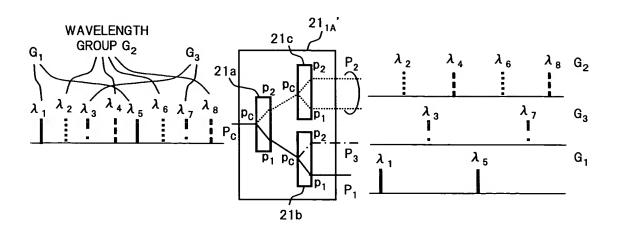
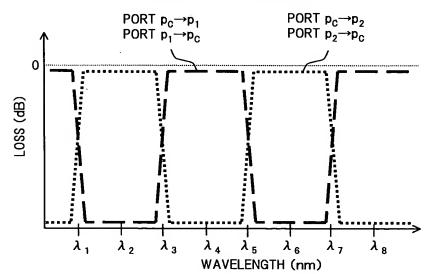


FIG.13

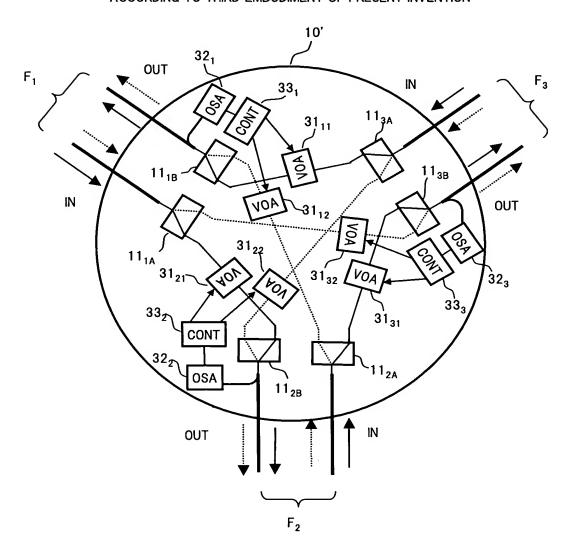




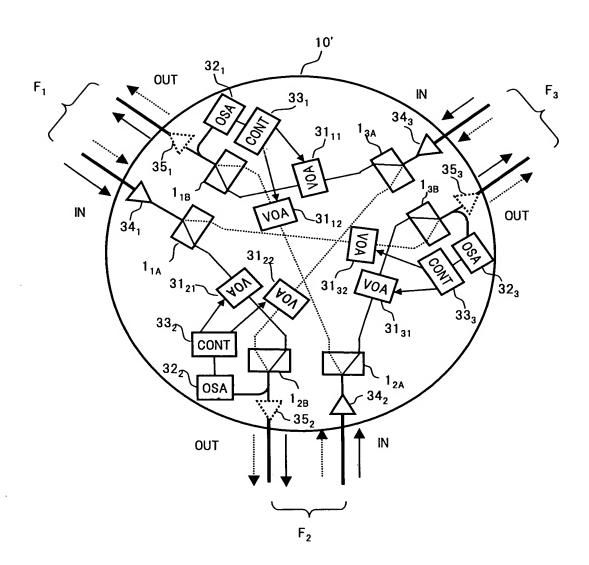
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FIG.14

CONFIGURATION OF THREE-DIRECTIONAL OPTICAL BRANCHING APPARATUS ACCORDING TO THIRD EMBODIMENT OF PRESENT INVENTION

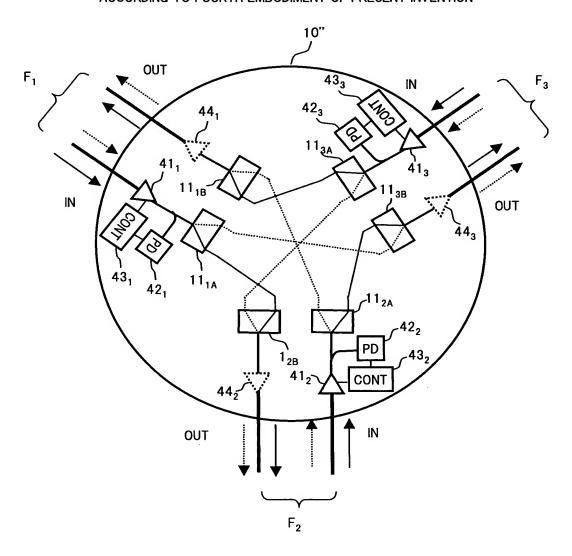


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CONFIGURATION OF THREE-DIRECTIONAL OPTICAL BRANCHING APPARATUS ACCORDING TO FOURTH EMBODIMENT OF PRESENT INVENTION



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FIG.17

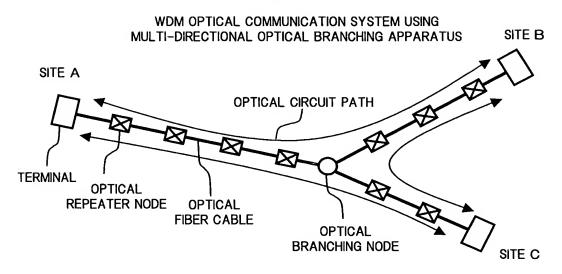
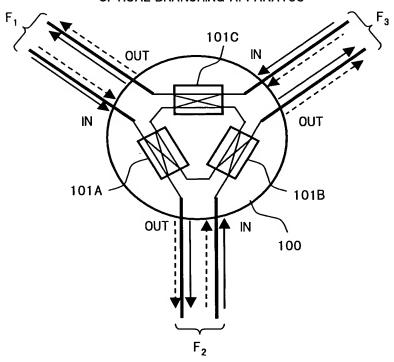


FIG.18

CONFIGURATION OF CONVENTIONAL THREE-DIRECTIONAL OPTICAL BRANCHING APPARATUS



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